



Rudolph Abrassart

June 6, 1923 - June 3, 2012

RUDOLPH WESLEY ABRASSART, 88, longtime resident of St. Anne died Sunday, June 3, 2012, at Miller Sojourn in Kankakee. Rudy was born June 6, 1923 to Ferdinand Rudolph "Mack" Abrassart and Bessie Mae Smith Abrassart. Rudy grew up in the Kankakee, Pembroke, Bradley and Manteno areas. He fondly remembered Snooky, his precocious terrier. Rudy graduated from Manteno High School in 1942, where he was a miler and played offense and defense positions on the football team. He regularly attended the monthly class reunions during retirement. During high school, Rudy worked for tips at John Golding's Skating Rink in Manteno (where his girlfriend Grace used to skate), and for \$18 a week at Wilbur Fink's Full-Service Filling Station in Kankakee, dressed in an all-white uniform. In 1942, Rudy volunteered for the U.S. Navy. He worked as a Machinist Mate (MOM2T) in the Auxiliary Engine Room and as a gunner on the LST 288. During WWII, Rudy saw action in the European Theater at both Omaha and Normandy Beaches (D-Day, 6-6-44, his 21st birthday), in Italy and North Africa, and in the Pacific Theater during the 1945 Philippine Liberation. While on leave, Rudy married his high school sweetheart Grace Adell Cochran on December 28, 1944, at the First Baptist Church parsonage in St. Anne by the Reverend Warren Faber. After Rudy was honorably discharged from the Navy, they lived in Chicago. He worked for the Burton Dixie Mattress Company (85 cents an hour), and Commonwealth Edison as a Boiler Cleaner (95 cents an hour). Rudy and Grace moved to the Wichert/St. Anne area and were owner/operators of the St. Anne Coffee Shop

for 5 years, after which Rudy worked for the contractor Carl West, finishing and trimming homes in Aroma Park (\$1.85 an hour). He then worked as a roofer for Elmer Laurent for 2-3 years. In March of 1957, Rudy worked as yardman for the Alexander Lumber Company; he was promoted to manager in January of 1969. When Alexander closed the St. Anne yard in 1981, Rudy worked as the assistant manager at the Kankakee yard; he retired in 1987. Rudy took correspondence courses from Moody Bible Institute, attended several Bible Conferences at Winona Lake, IN, and completed automotive classes at KCC. Besides being an avid gardener and coffee drinker, he was also a Bears fan. He enjoyed fishing, keeping bees, playing the harmonica and the guitar, dirtbike riding with his sons, gospel music, and singing duets with Grace, in a Barbershop quartet, and in the church choir. Rudy was preceeded in death by his parents, infant daughter Rachel Marie, elder sisters Verna Pomroy and Margarite "Peg" Dandurand Barnes, brother Benjamin, infant granddaughter Sarah Kay, his beloved wife of 63 years, Grace (8/08), daughter-in-law Karen (1/10), and son-in-law Vaughn Whitesell (8/10). Rudy is survived by his sister Deloris "Dode" (Chebanse); three sons: Wes of Kankakee, Steve (Kim), and Fred (Sharon) of St. Anne; two daughters: Beth Whitesell of Greensboro, NC, and Reba (David) Worth of St. Anne; 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces. Burial with military honors will be in the St. Anne Township Cemetery on Tuesday, June 5 at 2 P.M. A memorial service will be held on Sunday June 10 at 6 P.M., at the First Baptist Church of St. Anne, where Rudy was a long-time member

serving as song leader, high school Sunday School teacher, SS Superintendent, adult SS teacher, and Elder. Pastor Bob Wauchope will officiate. Rudy's family and friends will remember him as a modest man of steadfast character and sound wisdom. He read God's Word daily. He was self-sacrificing, disciplined and hard-working, a devoted husband and father. "Well done, Rudy, good and faithful servant. Enter into the Joy of your Lord."

Cemetery Details

St. Anne Township Cemetery

South Route 1
St. Anne, IL 60964
(815) 427-8346

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN **5**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Anne Township Cemetery
South Route 1
St. Anne, IL 60964
(815) 427-8346

Memorial Service

JUN **10**. 6:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
215 W. Sheffield
St. Anne, AK IL

Tribute Wall

VW

“ We are saddened to hear of the earthly loss of Rudy but are assured that he was ushered into the presence of the Lord. What a peace we are given to know that we shall see our dear ones again. You all have my prayers as you mourn the loss of your wonderful parents - their friendship meant a great deal to my folks, Vern and Sallie Ward, and I have such good memories of them as well from First Baptist. God Bless your family. Love, Vernice Ward

Vernice Ward - July 08, 2012 at 08:47 AM

TF

“ Rudy always made me smile and I cared for him so much. He use to call me into his room at Miller and I would ask what he needed and he would say "nothing" did I ring the bell and I would say yes, he would giggle, and this continued to happen to end of my shift. When I wasnt his nurse I always made sure I went by his room to say Hi! He will be missed!

Tina Frahm - June 06, 2012 at 08:27 PM

BW

Dad was such a character. I am thankful for all the staff at Miller who cared for him this last year.

Beth Whitesell - June 12, 2012 at 05:49 AM

ST

“ I just read the obituary. What a beautiful summary of a beautiful life. How blessed are those who lived within Rudy's influence. I can't help but wonder how many prayers were spoken for each of you. May you each continue to be influenced by the life he led and the God he loved. May your tears be turned into joy.

Susan Ingram, Tencarva - June 06, 2012 at 07:25 AM

BG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about your dad, Beth. May it help you to know that others share in your sorrow. Let me know if there is anything we can do. You and your family are in our prayers.*

Barbara Barth, GPM - June 05, 2012 at 01:47 PM

BW

Thank you, Barbara. He was certainly a fine gentleman. He will be missed.

Beth Whitesell - June 12, 2012 at 05:50 AM

PO

“ *Sorry to hear of this, Reba. He sounded like a wonderful, godly man who loved his family, church, and country. As I know he will be missed, prayers for the sustaining power of your saviour for you and your family during this time of loss. God be with you.*

Pam Olinger

Pam Olinger - June 05, 2012 at 10:02 AM

KB

“ *The most deepest condolences to Wes and his family. I read the obit and just brought me to tears, what an amazing person. He's happy he's with his wife and parents and that he rests with the angels now.*



Kristyn Burlotti - June 05, 2012 at 01:33 AM

LS

“ *Lewis Ashley Sr. lit a candle in memory of Rudolph Abrassart*



Lewis Ashley Sr. - June 04, 2012 at 10:30 PM

LE

“ *Rudy was as close to a saint as I ever expect to see on earth. He and I were good buddies and I enjoyed so much being around him. A few weeks ago when Dode and I were visiting him a nurse asked if we were his sisters. I said I was a friend. He said I could be his sister too. What an honor. I'm so glad to have known such a patient, good man. I'll miss you Rudy. Rest in peace with Grace. Love, Lyn*

Linda Earls - June 04, 2012 at 05:29 PM

LE

“ *You were the best brother anyone could ever hope for. If more people were like you this world would be a far better place. I miss you but I will see you and Grace again. Love, Dode*

Linda Earls - June 04, 2012 at 05:25 PM

LE

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Linda Earls - June 04, 2012 at 05:24 PM

DB

“ My deepest sympathy to the Abrassart family. Rudy was a very special person. I worked with him at the Kankakee Alexander Lumber (he was my boss for a while) and he always had a smile and was a friend to everyone. We send our prayers to your family and we will always remember Rudy.

*Ross & Dee Bertrand
Kankakee, Il.*

Deanna (Dee) Bertrand - June 04, 2012 at 05:24 PM

PW

“ My deepest sympathy to the Abrassart family. I remember your Dad well. Always had that smile on his face and memories of him and my Dad playing Ping Pong at the lumber yard. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your families.

Perry Walsh

Perry Walsh - June 04, 2012 at 03:48 PM